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Meeting Notes

One Cleanup Program Kick Off Meeting Between EPA and MDE
January 28, 2004
Fair Hill, Maryland

Attendees:

Kristeen Gaffney,	US EPA III One Cleanup Program Coordinator
Jim McCreary,	US EPA III, Site Assessment/Brownfields Chief
Lorie Baker,	US EPA III, Site Assessment
Peter Ludzia,	US EPA III, Remedial Section Chief
Rob Sanchez,	US EPA III, Remedial Project Manager (Spectron Site)
Bob Greaves,	US EPA III, RCRA CA, Branch Chief
Deb Goldblum,	US EPA III, RCRA Revitalization Coordinator
Bernice Pasquini,	US EPA III, Watersheds
Karl Kalbacher,	MDE-ERRP
Art O'Connell	MDE-ERRP
Butch Dye	MDE WAS/HWP
Alex Mark Cox	MDE-ERRP
Eugene Dejoise	MDE-ERRP

General Discussion and Pilot Project Overview:

EPA opened the meeting with a short overview of the One Cleanup Program Initiative and the OSWER directive for Regional Area Wide Pilots. The "Guidelines to the Regions" for selecting and conducting the Area Wide Pilots was also provided. The goals of the pilots are to address area-wide contamination problems at multiple sites by using coordinated, cross-program, multi-agency approaches while also meeting the community's needs for redevelopment in the area. Each Region was given $40,000 to facilitate planning for the Area Wide Pilots.

The Curtis Bay area was previously mentioned as a potential Area Wide Pilot site. EPA provided the $40,000 funding to NOAA for water modeling in the Curtis Bay. While Curtis Bay is no longer being considered the Region's Area Wide One Cleanup Pilot, EPA will continue to provide support to the Curtis Bay area under the Region's Land Revitalization Initiative.

MDE then presented its reasons for selecting the Little Elk Creek as Region III's Area Wide Pilot. The central focus of the Pilot will be the industrial park areas west of the town of Elkton, Maryland. This area includes the former Triumph Explosives Plant, NJ Fireworks Plant, Maryland Sand Gravel, and Stone Superfund Site, Thiokol plant, GE Railcar site, etc (see maps provided during the meeting). A short discussion on site history and contamination associated with most of the sites ensued. Since the core group of sites are located along the Little Elk Creek, it was decided to maintain the project name " Little Elk Creek Area Wide Pilot Project." It was decided not to include the Spectron Superfund Site since it is 5 miles away from this

centralized core group of sites. In addition, the contamination at the Spectron Site is fairly well delineated, unlike many of the core sites. EPA requested that the Maryland Sand, Gravel and Stone (SGS) Superfund Site be included in the pilot study due to its close proximity, the high degree of public involvement and the opportunity to investigate other potential sites located between SGS and the pilot study area.

The reasons for selecting this area as a pilot project include:

- Widespread groundwater contamination (primarily, TCE, PCE and perchlorate) coming from numerous sites in the area. Residential wells have been impacted. There appears to be a demand for further residential development in the surrounding area.
- It is a historic industrial area that is currently underutilized due to a variety contamination issues. Individually these contamination sites may seem minor, but from a holistic view point they are hampering the industrial development of the region.
- Unemployment in this area is high and reuse of this industry area would improve jobs opportunities for the community.
- Except for lingering contamination issues, this could be a successful industrial area due to the central location of this area to major cities such as Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, and New York via Route I-95 corridor.

StakeHolders:

The stakeholders initially will be the EPA and MDE until a base set of goals and objectives can be determined. However, it was recognized that it is important to gain participation of County government, responsible parties, and the public as soon as possible. It was recognized that the County government may have a better understanding of "community growth" than either state or federal governments. By tapping into the zoning authority and knowledge of local governments, we can better integrate cleanup into successful reuse of the Pilot area. It may be necessary to include resource managers such as Maryland's water authority.

Objectives and Goals:

The OSWER guidelines memo includes an outline for developing an action plan. Based on these guidelines, the Region created a draft fact sheet for the Little Elk Creek pilot. The "broad brush" goals and objectives set out in the draft fact sheet should be reviewed by all and comments provided by February 4, 2004. The final fact sheet will be sent to OSWER, who will put it on its website.

The following questions were raised at the meeting:

- How do we declare or measure success?
- What are the problems in this program area?
- Where do have good data and where do we have uncertainty?
- Where are the sources of contamination?
- How do we distinguish required cleanup levels of federal vs state programs? Need to communicate in a unified voice to facilities and the public.
- What is the direction of shallow/deep ground water?

- Is contamination impacting wells? If so what are the uses of these wells?

Other goals discussed include:

- One goal of the program should ultimately be re-utilization of this industrial area with an effort to cleanup as much contamination with the available resources provided and protect public health. Interim goals for human health and environmental risk may also be identified.
- The program's overall plan should have the information available to assist the stakeholders to focus resources for specific site cleanups (i.e., prioritization). For example based on ground water usage it may determine that one area should receive a more proactive cleanup remedy versus an another area which may only require a passive natural attenuation remedy.
- A area wide database may be required to fully understand groundwater flows, geology, contamination, GW usage, property owners, property usage, etc. Investigation contractors and laboratories may be required to provide new data in an Electronic Data Deliverable (EDD) format that can be directly used in a GIS system.
- Development of a public participation plan including press events, fact sheets, website, etc to publicize and to encourage participation in the pilot. However, it is likely that local governments and the public would be more concerned about the reuse portion of the program versus the technical details of the cleanups.
- The program should schedule routine meetings to discuss status of each site and to make sure each individual action is in line with the programs overall goals. These meetings should publicize our successes, re-confirm our goals, and provide a forum to discuss requirements of each action (e.g., funding, technical assistance, local government institutional controls, etc).
- A "Ready for Reuse" approach should be investigated as a potential tool for site reuse. A "plain English" summary of the problems and uncertainties of the area could be developed to engender common understanding of the area and foster reuse.

These goals and objectives will be further broken down to include sub-goals. A complete list goals shall be complete by March 10, 2004 at the next technical meeting. These goals and objectives will be further clarified at that meeting for presentation to other stakeholders (e.g., local governments, public, responsible parties, etc). The release of these goals and objectives may be accompanied by a press event signifying the official start of the Little Elk Creek Area Wide Pilot Project.

NEXT STEP and ACTION ITEMS:

As we move forward with project planning, the group decided to establish two subgroups. One subgroup is the technical workgroup, which Art O'Connell (MDE) and Deb Goldblum (EPA) will co-lead. The other subgroup is the revitalization workgroup which will be co-led by

Kristeen Gaffney (EPA) and Karl Kalbacher (MDE).

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The purpose of the technical workgroup is to share information in order to reach a comprehensive understanding of groundwater flow, contaminant sources and extent, and potential exposure pathways. We can use this information to optimize efforts to fill data gaps and prioritize work to meet the needs of the revitalization team. The first action item for the technical group is to have a technical meeting in early March to familiarize all project managers/geologists on the on-going work and current understanding of groundwater conditions.

The purpose of the revitalization subgroup is to 1) refine project goals and objectives and write the overall action plan for the pilot 2) coordinate community involvement and site reuse in the project. The first action item is to draft the action plan by the March technical meeting.

- **February 4, 2004** Review and provide comments on draft fact sheet.
- **March 10, 2004** Technical Meeting.
  - **Specific Site Presentations:** To be provided in a unified format by project managers. The presentation format is to be determined by EPA and MDE by Friday February 13, 2004. It should include a standard list of questions.
  - **Draft Goals and Objectives**: A draft list of broad brush goals and sub-goals shall be presented and discussed in the second part of the technical meeting.
- **March 19, 2004** Finalize Goals and Objectives and begin involvement with local government and public. This may include a press event.